

1 NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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3  
4 THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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8  
9 ALBANY, NEW YORK

10 April 6, 2011

11 11:04 a.m.

12  
13  
14 REGULAR SESSION

15  
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18 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ROBERT J. DUFFY, President

19 FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 THE PRESIDENT: The Senate will  
3 come to order.

4 Please rise and repeat with me the  
5 Pledge of Allegiance.

6 (Whereupon, the assemblage recited  
7 the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.)

8 THE PRESIDENT: Welcome to West  
9 Point Day in the State Senate.

10 The invocation today is to be given  
11 by Father Edson J. Wood, who is the brigade  
12 chaplain at West Point. Father?

13 CHAPLAIN WOOD: May we pray.

14 Almighty God, we pray You guide  
15 this great state and those who lead it. Give  
16 Your spirit of wisdom to all whom we entrust  
17 with authority over us. In time of our  
18 prosperity, temper our self-confidence with  
19 thankfulness. And in the day of trouble, let  
20 our trust in You never fail.

21 Look, too, with Your generous  
22 bounty on West Point, which is to be honored  
23 here today. Let her remember always that her  
24 mission of duty, honor, country is not a way  
25 of looking only at certain things, it is a

1       certain way of looking at everything.

2               And finally, O God, protect our  
3       uniformed brothers and sisters and their  
4       families all over this troubled world of ours.  
5       Guide them, protect them, keep them safe, and  
6       reward them bounteously for their greatness of  
7       soul.

8               Our prayer this day comes from  
9       hearts that are open to You, Eternal God. And  
10      we ask these things in Your name, which is  
11      mighty.

12              Amen.

13              THE PRESIDENT:     Next we'll have  
14      the reading of the Journal.

15              THE SECRETARY:     In Senate,  
16      Tuesday, April 5th, the Senate met pursuant to  
17      adjournment. The Journal of Monday,  
18      April 4th, was read and approved. On motion,  
19      Senate adjourned.

20              THE PRESIDENT:     Without  
21      objection, the Journal stands approved as  
22      read.

23              Presentation of petitions.

24              Any messages from the Assembly?

25              The Secretary will read.

1                   THE SECRETARY:     On page 18,  
2     Senator Maziarz moves to discharge, from the  
3     Committee on Local Government, Assembly Bill  
4     Number 2411 and substitute it for the  
5     identical Senate Bill Number 205, Third  
6     Reading Calendar 233.

7                   THE PRESIDENT:     Substitution  
8     ordered.

9                   Presentation of petitions.  
10                  Messages from the Assembly.  
11                  Messages from the Governor.  
12                  Reports of standing committees.  
13                  Reports of select committees.  
14                  Communications and reports from  
15     state officers.  
16                  Motions and resolutions.  
17                  Senator Libous.

18                  SENATOR LIBOUS:     Thank you,  
19     Mr. President.

20                  Mr. President, at this time there's  
21     a privileged resolution at the desk by Senator  
22     Larkin. I ask that we please read it in its  
23     entirety. And before we move for its  
24     adoption, I would ask that you call on  
25     Senator Larkin.

1                   THE PRESIDENT:     Thank you,  
2     Senator.

3                   The Secretary will read the  
4     resolution in its entirety.

5                   THE SECRETARY:     Legislative  
6     resolution by Senator Larkin, memorializing  
7     Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 6,  
8     2011, as West Point Day in the State of  
9     New York.

10                  "WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is  
11     justly proud to celebrate the establishment of  
12     the United States Military Academy at  
13     West Point and to call upon Governor Andrew M.  
14     Cuomo to proclaim April 6, 2011, as West Point  
15     Day in the State of New York; and

16                  "WHEREAS, By an act of Congress on  
17     March 16, 1802, the United States Military  
18     Academy was established within the borders of  
19     New York State, on the banks of the Hudson  
20     River; and

21                  "WHEREAS, The Academy and its  
22     graduates are an integral part of the proud  
23     history of this state and nation; and

24                  "WHEREAS, The leadership and  
25     sacrifices of the members of the Long Gray

1       Line have helped this country withstand  
2       countless threats to our cherished democratic  
3       way of life; and

4                "WHEREAS, The alumni have excelled  
5       not only on the battlefield but in many fields  
6       of endeavor; and

7                "WHEREAS, The Academy continues to  
8       provide our country with able and dedicated  
9       future leaders; and

10              "WHEREAS, Its scenic campus is a  
11       mecca each year for thousands of visitors from  
12       across our state, continent, and other  
13       countries; and

14              "WHEREAS, The United States  
15       Military Academy is in the forefront of our  
16       state's outstanding institutions of higher  
17       learning; and

18              "WHEREAS, 59 years ago, the late  
19       James T. McNamara, then a member of the  
20       New York State Assembly, and a member of the  
21       Academy's class of 1939, was the author of the  
22       State Legislature's first 'West Point Day'  
23       Resolution; and

24              "WHEREAS, For decades, our nation  
25       has enjoyed the legacy of freedom, and the

1 United States Military Academy at West Point  
2 has played a vitally significant role in the  
3 maintenance of peace and freedom; and

4 "WHEREAS, The members of this  
5 Legislative Body are proud to commemorate this  
6 event marking April 6, 2011, as West Point Day  
7 in New York State; now, therefore, be it

8 "RESOLVED, That this Legislative  
9 Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate  
10 the establishment of the United States  
11 Military Academy at West Point and to  
12 memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to  
13 proclaim April 6, 2011, as West Point Day in  
14 the State of New York; and be it further

15 "RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
16 resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted  
17 to the Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of  
18 the State of New York."

19 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

20 Senator Larkin.

21 SENATOR LARKIN: Thank you,  
22 Mr. President.

23 What an honor and distinct  
24 privilege to represent West Point. And first  
25 of all, on behalf of all of my colleagues, I'd

1       like to offer a special welcome to General  
2       Huntoon and his wife, Margaret. Please stand,  
3       and I'd like everybody to see you wonderful  
4       people.

5                        (Applause.)

6                SENATOR LARKIN:     Before my  
7       remarks, I'd like to introduce you to this  
8       group of outstanding members, outstanding  
9       individuals and future leaders of our armed  
10      forces and our government.

11                   First, Captain Marc Beaudoin is  
12      from the great State of Maine. Please stand  
13      up as I call you, and then you can sit down.  
14      Thank you very much, First Captain.

15                   Cadet Patrick Arlantino, from  
16      Kingston, my district. Good to see you.

17                   Cadet Ross Chesaniuk, Senator  
18      Sta -- Stati -- Stavisky's -- you know, those  
19      Irish names are hard to pronounce.

20                   (Laughter.)

21                SENATOR LARKIN:     Thank you.

22                   Cadet Gerard Connolly, from Senator  
23      Addabbo's.

24                   Cadet Jeff Jang, Senator Skelos's  
25      district. Thank you.



1 Cadet Andrea Lloyd, from  
2 New Hampton, Orange County. Good to see you.

3 Cadet Cidny Menjivar, from Senator  
4 Joe Addabbo.

5 Cadet Andy Uhorchak, from Cornwall,  
6 New York. Don't sit down, Andy.

7 Andy is the third. His oldest  
8 brother has already had a tour. His sister is  
9 sitting in my old seat in Heidelberg -- when I  
10 was a youngster, Gene. Thank you, Andy. The  
11 third in his family, and he'll be there next  
12 year in the same fighting capacity as his  
13 brother and sister have.

14 Cadet Sally Chang; Senator  
15 Stavisky.

16 Cadet Madelyne Serrano, Senator  
17 Diaz.

18 Cadet Pat Stingley, Senator  
19 McDonald.

20 Cadet Shaliya Dehipawala. Was I  
21 close?

22 CADET DEHIPAWALA: No, sir.

23 (Laughter.)

24 SENATOR LARKIN: Where's Tony  
25 Avella? That's your fault, Tony.

1 Cadet Corey Hill; Mike Nozzolio.

2 Cadet Enoch No; David Carlucci's.

3 Cadet Mark Hoempler; Senator

4 Carlucci.

5 Cadet Colin Hennessy, Senator

6 Skelos' office.

7 Ladies and gentlemen, the future of  
8 America.

9 (Standing ovation.)

10 SENATOR LARKIN: You know, I know  
11 my colleagues have a habit of calling me the  
12 Colonel, you know. It's not out of  
13 disrespect. Because if it was, you know what  
14 I would do.

15 But this is a great day. For we,  
16 the legislators from the State of New York, to  
17 invite you here to let you know that we  
18 respect you.

19 The Class of 2011 that will  
20 graduate in May will have orders. This fall  
21 they'll be in harm's way, 90 percent of them.  
22 But we know that we can depend on you. Four  
23 years ago, your class, you stood there in our  
24 day and you said "I do and I will."

25 This country depends on you.

1       You're the backbone of our country. You are  
2       what every person that really cares about  
3       America looks at you and says "Thank you."

4               And we also thank your mothers and  
5       fathers for giving you the will and the desire  
6       and the opportunity to go to a great  
7       institution.

8               Look around, my colleagues, and  
9       think of those who went before these cadets.  
10      MacArthur, Eisenhower -- bring it up-to-date.  
11      Class of '56, Desert Storm's. Look at today,  
12      Class of '74, General Petraeus, from my town  
13      of Cornwall.

14              This is what it's all about. These  
15      are young men and women who make a difference  
16      every day. The freshman class that are coming  
17      in in June, they won't be going to college and  
18      checking their gear in and say, "Let's go out  
19      and have a few beers Friday night," because  
20      that's not what the academy is all about.

21              The Long Gray Line: Duty, honor  
22      and country. How fortunate we are, not just  
23      as a state but as a nation. There will be a  
24      thousand graduates in May. I think it's a day  
25      that we all should be proud of. Because when

1       those white hats are thrown in the air, it  
2       signifies that we've moved one step forward to  
3       your maturity and your leadership.

4               Check all of the cadets that are  
5       here today. They didn't sit around and think  
6       of what they could do and goof off. They all  
7       had activities. They had all spirits.

8               Let me just tell you about 600 of  
9       them. Last year we had the Special Olympics.  
10       General Huntoon says we'll do it again this  
11       year. Six hundred cadets from all grades, all  
12       classes, helped with our Special Olympics.  
13       And if you'd see the cadets, men and women,  
14       handle those special individuals with their  
15       care and their respect, and they're willing to  
16       help them -- that's what this is all about at  
17       West Point. This is about duty, honor and  
18       country. It's about leadership.

19               I had the privilege of serving for  
20       23 years. And as I told General Huntoon and a  
21       couple of others, in 23 years I only had one  
22       at West Point that we didn't get along. But  
23       the funniest thing about it was a couple of my  
24       friends said, "What class?" I said 1950.  
25       They said, "Oh, Cloyce B." Everybody was in

1 unison. Because they know who's the ones they  
2 can count on.

3 We are indeed proud of you. We are  
4 thankful for what you have done. As you march  
5 forward to accept the new assignment, the  
6 Class of 2011, just think, right here we have  
7 a distinguished graduate of the Class of 1961.  
8 Please stand. Neil [sic] Breslin, the county  
9 executive. After a distinguished career, he's  
10 now the county executive.

11 That's his brother next to him. He  
12 has to advise his brother.

13 (Laughter.)

14 SENATOR LARKIN: But just think  
15 about it. You've got -- don't worry about the  
16 media. If you recall that General Petraeus  
17 was just back here giving a briefing to the  
18 Senate, and somebody asked him a question  
19 about the leader's children. And General  
20 Petraeus clearly just said, "Stephen Petraeus,  
21 First Lieutenant, A Company, 1st Battalion,  
22 173rd Airborne Infantry, 101st Airborne  
23 Division, just returned home from 15 months in  
24 Afghanistan."

25 The meeting by the Senate Armed

1 Services Committee ceased right there, because  
2 Senator Levin from Michigan said, "I don't  
3 think there are any other questions."

4 You have nothing to be ashamed of.  
5 You stand proud, as everybody in this chamber  
6 is proud of you. May God bless you all.

7 (Applause.)

8 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you,  
9 Senator.

10 Senator Skelos.

11 SENATOR SKELOS: Would you  
12 recognize Senator Breslin, please.

13 THE PRESIDENT: Senator Breslin.

14 SENATOR BRESLIN: Thank you,  
15 Mr. President.

16 And welcome, West Point cadets. On  
17 behalf of the Democratic conference, we're  
18 humbled to have you here.

19 We'd like to think that we have  
20 something in common with you, that it's our  
21 role to kind of act in a democratic way, and  
22 it's your role to preserve that democratic  
23 way. And shortly you will be in harm's way.  
24 And you'll be following a tradition that goes  
25 back to Thaddeus Kosciuszko, who was told by

1 Washington to protect West Point. And on to,  
2 as Senator Larkin said, on to some of the  
3 greatest leaders this world has ever known --  
4 Eisenhower, Pershing, MacArthur, Grant, and on  
5 and on and on.

6 And I'd like to highlight a couple  
7 of others that probably are less well known.  
8 Henry O. Flipper, who was the first  
9 African-American graduate in 1877. In 1915,  
10 Luis Estevez became the first Hispanic to  
11 graduate from West Point. And in 1980,  
12 Project Athena, where 119 extraordinary women  
13 became the first women cadets, with Andrea  
14 Hollen becoming the first to graduate. And on  
15 and on and on.

16 And you are a part of duty, honor,  
17 country. And you are the ones that are there  
18 to preserve the greatest experiment in our  
19 country, the experiment of democracy that  
20 continues to this day.

21 And again, as I said, we are  
22 humbled to have you here. And I also take  
23 this special day once a year to not make fun  
24 of a brother with my same surname, to honor  
25 him on this day. In fact, Senator Larkin has

1       already given him the highest honor  
2       imaginable --

3                       (Laughter.)

4               SENATOR BRESLIN:     -- by referring  
5       to him as Neil.

6                       (Laughter.)

7               SENATOR BRESLIN:     But indeed, I  
8       say this once a year, that my older brother is  
9       indeed my idol. A 1961 graduate of West  
10      Point, who, as I've told you earlier, played  
11      basketball, football and baseball at  
12      West Point and went on to Jump School, Ranger  
13      School, Jungle Warfare School, Air  
14      Transportation School, Jump Master School, and  
15      as a 27-year-old in Vietnam made major,  
16      reporting to General Creighton Abrams, and  
17      went on to teach, at the College of the  
18      Americas, counterinsurgency.

19                   And this partially prepared him to  
20      become a county executive --

21                   (Laughter.)

22               SENATOR BRESLIN:     -- and to deal  
23      with the mandates that are sent down by a  
24      group -- not this group and this conference;  
25      there were others before us, others before us



1           and others in other conferences.

2                       But this indeed is wonderful for  
3           all of us. You are in our prayers as you  
4           prepare for graduation and prepare to defend  
5           us and allow us to continue to debate here,  
6           but to debate here in a very civil way.

7                       We do things in a way that we do  
8           not hear about or see in any other country in  
9           this world. We do things by arguing back and  
10          forth to come up with compromises that better  
11          serve democracy.

12                      So my hat is off to you on this  
13          wonderful day, and my hat is also off to my  
14          brother and all of those who have gone before  
15          you.

16                      Thank you, Mr. President.

17                      THE PRESIDENT:     Thank you,  
18          Senator.

19                      Senator Skelos.

20                      SENATOR SKELOS:     Thank you very  
21          much, Mr. President.

22                      Our Republican conference and the  
23          entire chamber welcomes you to Albany once  
24          again there year.

25                      Colonel Larkin, I want to start off

1 by thanking you. This is a special day for  
2 you, but it's also a special day for every  
3 single member of the Senate as we pay tribute  
4 and salute those who are going through the  
5 learning process but in a short time will be  
6 protecting our democracy for this country.

7 So, Colonel, once again -- from  
8 Republicans, Democrats, everybody in this  
9 chamber, thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 SENATOR SKELOS: To the West  
12 Point Superintendent, Lieutenant General David  
13 Huntoon and Mrs. Huntoon, we welcome you.

14 And to the Superintendent, the  
15 lives of these young people are in your hands  
16 to educate them well, as you do. And we thank  
17 you for preparing the next group of graduates  
18 from West Point. We salute you, sir.

19 Aide-de-Camp Major Michael  
20 McDermott, I understand that Senator Lee  
21 Zeldin served with you in Iraq, and we welcome  
22 you to this great chamber. Thank you for your  
23 service.

24 The General is accompanied by his  
25 staff and a group of cadets led by First

1 Captain Cadet Marc Beaudoin.

2 And I also want to extend a special  
3 welcome to two cadets from the 9th Senate  
4 District: Jeffrey Jang, from Woodmere, and  
5 Colin Hennessy, of Lynbrook. Again, we  
6 welcome you to the chamber, as we do all of  
7 your fellow cadets.

8 It is an honor and a privilege to  
9 stand here as the Majority Leader and a member  
10 of this chamber to welcome you and to thank  
11 you. West Point, strong as the rock upon  
12 which it is built and as unyielding as the  
13 river that flows by its walls.

14 The United States Military Academy  
15 at West Point is one of the most cherished  
16 institutions in our nation and the most  
17 cherished institution in the State of New  
18 York, a place where the best and the bravest  
19 men and women answer the call to serve their  
20 country.

21 Each of you has committed yourself  
22 to the values of duty, honor and country. We  
23 all owe that debt of gratitude to you. The  
24 road you have chosen isn't an easy one.  
25 Thousands of your brothers and sisters have

1       lost their lives or been wounded during the  
2       current conflicts in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and  
3       now Libya.

4               Despite the obvious and inherent  
5       risks, you continue to serve your country with  
6       the same strength and desire you have  
7       exhibited throughout every aspect of your  
8       lives. The training and instruction you are  
9       receiving at West Point will undoubtedly  
10      prepare you to meet and exceed the tough  
11      challenges that lie ahead.

12             We are extremely proud of the work  
13      you do. Your bravery and heroism in these  
14      difficult times are an inspiration to us and  
15      to all Americans. You represent the very best  
16      our country has to offer, and we are honored  
17      and privileged to have you here today.

18             And as an indication -- you know,  
19      when I came over to speak to you, everybody  
20      was very serious. But when I mentioned we  
21      have lunch at 1:00 o'clock, we got a lot of  
22      smiles.

23             (Laughter.)

24             SENATOR SKELOS:     So we invite you  
25      back -- I believe you're going to the Assembly

1 to be greeted there, as you should. And then  
2 we welcome you back, all the members, people  
3 that are here, we welcome you back to our  
4 conference room so that you can have a great  
5 lunch and do a comparison between the lunch  
6 we're going to serve you and the food that you  
7 get at West Point.

8 We're very proud of you, we love  
9 you, and we hope and we pray that God protects  
10 each and every one of you.

11 (Applause.)

12 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you,  
13 Senator.

14 Next, Senator Carlucci.

15 SENATOR CARLUCCI: Thank you,  
16 Mr. President.

17 And I want to thank the previous  
18 speakers, particularly Senator Larkin for  
19 sponsoring this resolution.

20 It's an absolute honor today to  
21 welcome you to the Senate chamber. And on  
22 behalf of the people that I represent in  
23 Rockland and Orange County, we just want to  
24 say thank you for your commitment towards  
25 excellence, your sacrifice that you've put

1       forth to serve our communities, our state, our  
2       nation.

3               Basically, I just want to say thank  
4       you and I know that our state and our nation  
5       is in good hands with your leadership now and  
6       your future leadership. I hope that one day  
7       you will run for office and you'll be able to  
8       lead this state to prosperity.

9               With that, I also want to say that  
10       I'm particularly proud of Enoch No and  
11       Mark Hoempler, who are both graduates of  
12       Suffern High School, a great high school in  
13       Rockland County.

14              And with that, thank you. Thank  
15       you for your leadership and your commitment to  
16       our community. God bless you.

17              THE PRESIDENT:     Thank you,  
18       Senator.

19              Senator Addabbo.

20              SENATOR ADDABBO:    Thank you,  
21       Lieutenant Governor. Good morning.

22              First let me thank Senator Larkin  
23       not only for this resolution and his work  
24       during West Point Day, but also for his  
25       service to our country. Senator Larkin, thank

1       you very much for your dedication to our  
2       country.

3               And I believe it's the right thing  
4       to do to take a moment from our legislative  
5       work and acknowledge the cadets who are here  
6       and obviously thank them for their commitment  
7       and dedication, and congratulate them on being  
8       part of the over 200-year-old-history at  
9       West Point.

10              Over the past 30 years, West Point  
11       has become more diverse. And I want to say  
12       welcome to two of my constituents, who I'm  
13       extremely proud of, Cadet Cidny Menjivar, and  
14       Cadet Gerard Connolly, whose family I've known  
15       for many years, and to all the cadets.

16              You know, please know that the  
17       residents of the 15th Senatorial District and  
18       the residents across this great state and  
19       country are proud of the path you have chosen.  
20       And we are thankful that you are here today.

21              And we also should be reminded and  
22       mindful that there are many of the West Point  
23       family who are not here today, who are serving  
24       us and protecting our freedoms around the  
25       world in Afghanistan and Iraq and all points

1 of this world. We are mindful of their,  
2 again, service to our country. We thank them  
3 as well. Our prayers are with them for their  
4 safety, as our prayers will be with you as  
5 well.

6 So thank you again for being here  
7 on West Point Day.

8 Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

9 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you,  
10 Senator.

11 Senator Zeldin.

12 SENATOR ZELDIN: Thank you,  
13 Mr. President.

14 First I want to thank Colonel  
15 Larkin for sponsoring this resolution and for  
16 your service, a very proud Korean War veteran  
17 who, whenever he has an opportunity to pay  
18 homage to our future veterans, our current  
19 veterans, and our past veterans, he never  
20 misses an opportunity. And once again, he has  
21 demonstrated that leadership again today.

22 To Michael Breslin, for your  
23 service to our country as well. It's nice to  
24 have other veterans in this room. I know we  
25 have a Marine in Senator Owen Johnson, who



1       served a couple of years before I did. We  
2       have Greg Ball, who served in the Air Force,  
3       and others as well around this room and in  
4       this chamber.

5               It is an honor to serve as a  
6       New York State Senator. And absolutely no  
7       disrespect to all of my colleagues here,  
8       nothing will ever beat the honor of serving on  
9       active duty in the Army.

10              To the Superintendent, who's here,  
11       I walked in the chamber today and I had no  
12       idea that my company commander over in Iraq is  
13       your aide, that my battalion commander from  
14       Iraq is your XO, Colonel Mike Richardson.

15              It is -- for me, when I see the  
16       American flag, it's so colorful. Maybe it has  
17       more color each and every day that I  
18       appreciate it more and more. I've heard these  
19       stories of those in combat where the American  
20       flag has come off of a pole and hit the ground  
21       and soldiers have picked that flag up to keep  
22       it off the ground, knowing that death was  
23       almost certain. Some that have gotten shot  
24       and killed, and yet another soldier would go  
25       and pick up that flag off the ground, knowing

1       that death was almost certain.

2               And again and again, these stories  
3       have been inspiration, inspirations to songs  
4       that we sing and books that are read. It is  
5       that inspiration that made me so proud the  
6       first day I put on a uniform. And I looked  
7       into the mirror and I saw that Army patch  
8       smiling right back at me, and I knew I was  
9       getting involved with the right profession.

10              You are at such a critical point in  
11       our nation's history, going to become  
12       officers. Your character is the greatest of  
13       what New York is all about. And even though  
14       we may not be there with you physically each  
15       and every day while you are earning your  
16       officer ranks at West Point, and we may not be  
17       with while you serve over in combat, know that  
18       you're leaving a legacy back home and you have  
19       a spirit of us with you. Because we are so  
20       proud of your service. We are so proud of  
21       your sacrifice.

22              And it is an honor to be in your  
23       presence today, and I wish you the best of  
24       luck.

25              THE PRESIDENT:       Thank you,

1 Senator.

2 Senator Ball.

3 SENATOR BALL: I also want to  
4 thank Colonel Larkin for his continued  
5 leadership on this.

6 Colonel Larkin being Army, me being  
7 Air Force, we have a pushup contest every  
8 morning, and he beats me every single time.

9 (Laughter.)

10 SENATOR BALL: You know, just so  
11 people understand who are not necessarily  
12 familiar with West Point -- some of my numbers  
13 may be off; I'll fudge them in the up  
14 direction. If the Sup wants to tell me if I'm  
15 off on the numbers, let me know.

16 But you're talking about an  
17 institution where there are approximately  
18 50,000 pre-candidate questionnaires, they  
19 accept 30,000 applications -- and this goes  
20 for Naval Academy, Air Force Academy, or the  
21 Air Force Academy's sister institution,  
22 West Point.

23 (Hoots, laughter.)

24 SENATOR BALL: -- 50,000  
25 applications, and with -- Colonel, we'll have

1           a pushup contest with the Sup in a little bit.

2                   And then, out of that, there are  
3           10,000 applications that are totally  
4           qualified. And out of that number, they pick  
5           1200 cadets. In your typical graduating  
6           class, 800 graduate.

7                   You know, for those on the other  
8           side of the aisle and for all of us who care  
9           about social justice, West Point and the  
10          service academies of the United States of  
11          America represent the greatest beacon of equal  
12          opportunity that the United States has ever  
13          had, at the highest of levels.

14                   (Applause.)

15                   SENATOR BALL:       When you go in and  
16          they break you down and they build you back  
17          up, they shave your hair off, you all wear the  
18          same thing, you don't know who's rich or poor.  
19          You don't know who comes from the South or the  
20          North, except for those crazy accents. You  
21          really are all equal. And it's up to you to  
22          prove yourself.

23                   And I've seen kids from the rural  
24          places, I've seen kids come from the inner  
25          city, of all backgrounds, of all creeds, of

1 all ethnicities, and do amazing things. Go  
2 from a small town and become first captain.  
3 And congratulations to the First Captain who's  
4 here today. What a great honor for you.

5 You know, one of my best memories,  
6 the best memory of my life, is graduating from  
7 the Air Force Academy and being handed my  
8 commission or getting my commission from the  
9 Vice President of the United States, Dick  
10 Cheney.

11 And in fact I remember -- of  
12 course, one thing that Senator Adams and I  
13 have in common is liking the press a little  
14 bit. And I remember on that day thinking the  
15 entire time, how can I get a photo of me on my  
16 graduation, because there's always that iconic  
17 photo. And he was wearing a big cowboy hat.

18 So at the very end, as I walked up  
19 that stage to see the Vice President, I said,  
20 I got it. I'll get him to wear my cadet cap,  
21 and I'll wear his cowboy hat, it will be a  
22 great thing.

23 So I went up, I said, "Mr. Vice  
24 President, can we exchange hats?" And he was  
25 about to do it, and there was a great photo --

1 and he took off his hat, and I took off my  
2 hat, and I went to give it to him, and he  
3 stopped me and he said, "Oh, no, this cowboy  
4 hat is way too expensive." Which tells you a  
5 little bit.

6 But quite honestly, that was the  
7 proudest day. Not because the Vice President  
8 was there, but because of my parents and my  
9 friends and family who came out to be with me.  
10 You look forward to a great day.

11 One of my lowest moments, it was  
12 very early in the morning, I was up in the  
13 campaign, it was very busy and I went online  
14 because there had been an event that happened  
15 in Washington, D.C., and I was watching it on  
16 YouTube. And a mom of a soldier who was  
17 killed in Iraq, eastern Iraq, came up to speak  
18 at the podium, at the mike. And I thought I  
19 remembered the last name.

20 And she went into detail to speak  
21 about her son, how at a very young age, 5, 6  
22 years old, he talked about social  
23 responsibility and leadership and integrity,  
24 intrinsically. And she said the name Derek  
25 Argel, and I knew that he was my classmate.

1       He served in the special forces and was killed  
2       on May 31st.

3               The responsibility that is on your  
4       shoulders is great. And as cadets of the  
5       finest institution in the United States of  
6       America, you have a great responsibility.  
7       Because I promise you, if our boardrooms and  
8       places like this were full with more cadets,  
9       men and women like you, we wouldn't have  
10      Enron, we wouldn't have the scandals, and this  
11      would continue to be the greatest nation that  
12      this world has ever known.

13              So serve your country, serve your  
14      country well, and get into those boardrooms,  
15      get into places like this, and let's fight to  
16      make this the greatest country and continue to  
17      be the greatest country that this world has  
18      ever known.

19              Thank you, men and women.

20              THE PRESIDENT:     Thank you,  
21      Senator.

22              Senator Staviskey.

23              SENATOR STAVISKY:   Thank you,  
24      Mr. President.

25              And I don't want to stand in the

1 way of your 1:00 o'clock lunch, so let me be  
2 very brief.

3 First let me thank Colonel Larkin.  
4 Each year Senator Larkin comes and speaks.  
5 And we appreciate your service as well as the  
6 service of other men and women who have served  
7 our country both in peace and in war.

8 And I am particularly proud today  
9 to welcome Ross Chesaniuk and Sally Chang,  
10 because they live in my district in Fresh  
11 Meadows, and they represent the best we have  
12 to offer.

13 I'm very proud of the high school  
14 that they attended, Francis Lewis High School,  
15 because Francis Lewis has a wonderful ROTC  
16 program and they train young people to serve  
17 in the military. They start in high school,  
18 and they have an outstanding academic program.  
19 And the fact that they have been able to send  
20 two of their most illustrious graduates to the  
21 Military Academy I think says a lot for the  
22 New York City public high schools.

23 So I also congratulate the  
24 Breslins. And every year I listen to Senator  
25 Breslin -- I think it's the only time of the



1       year when he says nice things about his  
2       brother.

3                       (Laughter.)

4               SENATOR STAVISKY:       But you can  
5       see the genuine affection that the two  
6       brothers have for each other.

7               And someday you will look at your  
8       siblings and have the same kind of -- even  
9       though you may be fighting nowadays,  
10      nevertheless this is a relationship that is  
11      certainly respected by everybody.

12              So I welcome you to Albany. And I  
13      thank you for offering yourselves to serve our  
14      country. The future is ahead of you, and the  
15      best years are ahead of you. And let us hope  
16      that you help our nation stay at peace.

17                      Thank you very much.

18              THE PRESIDENT:       Thank you,  
19      Senator.

20                      Senator McDonald.

21              SENATOR McDONALD:       Thank you,  
22      Mr. President.

23                      Thank you, Colonel, for doing what  
24      you do for us.

25                      A special thank you to our special

1        guests. I know you went through a lot of hard  
2        work, and I want to thank you on behalf of a  
3        future constituency of yours that I used to be  
4        part of.

5                The hard work is just beginning.  
6        Because it was mentioned earlier what you've  
7        got to look forward to as a graduation present  
8        is war. There's nothing dramatic or romantic  
9        or good about war. As former low-ranking Army  
10       soldier in Vietnam and Cambodia with the  
11       1st Cavalry Division, I remember my first  
12       patrol like it was yesterday. The leader of  
13       the patrol was a captain, a young West Point  
14       graduate.

15               Before we started, I was one scared  
16        guy. It's a lot different than television and  
17        the movies if it's in real life. He came up  
18        to the new guys that were replacing people who  
19        had already been shot in Cambodia. And that's  
20        all we could think about, were we going to be  
21        next.

22               He settled us down, each and every  
23        one of us. He looked us right in the eye. He  
24        says, "Don't worry, I'm not going to be  
25        leaving you. I'll be right with you."

1                   That's what you have to look  
2 forward to, the men and women who will be  
3 entrusting their lives to you. And I can't  
4 think of a better group of people than what  
5 I'm looking at right now.

6                   But for anybody here who thinks war  
7 is romantic, there's nothing about it. You  
8 will be writing letters to dead people's moms  
9 and dads. You'll be thinking about that all  
10 your life. You'll be watching your friend  
11 taken off the battlefield with one less leg or  
12 arm. You'll be thinking about what they could  
13 have been. And they'll be thinking about  
14 you -- if they survive -- in a hospital,  
15 thanking you that you were with them in those  
16 trying times.

17                   You have a tremendous amount of  
18 responsibility. But we pick the best for  
19 that. And God bless each and every one of  
20 you. And don't forget those average soldiers  
21 that die by the thousands that are looking to  
22 you as like a relative.

23                   Thank you for what you do.

24                   THE PRESIDENT:     Thank you,  
25 Senator.

1                   Senator Adams.

2                   SENATOR ADAMS:     Thank you,  
3           Lieutenant Governor.

4                   I just wanted to respond to what be  
5           Senator McDonald helped us all to understand.  
6           I was not going to speak, but I thought  
7           Senator McDonald did something for all of us.

8                   And I thank you, Senator, for what  
9           you just stated. Because often we have an  
10          attempt to romanticize what these young men  
11          are doing. And Senator McDonald just made it  
12          real for all of us, how courageous their acts  
13          are, these young men and women and, you know,  
14          what they are volunteering to do.

15                   And it's one thing to be in the  
16          sterilized environment of West Point. But  
17          once they leave West Point, the very real  
18          image that Senator McDonald shared with us is  
19          heroic beyond our imagination.

20                   And for those men and women who are  
21          in here who have served and who have put their  
22          lives on the line to protect our country, we  
23          owe them a debt of gratitude. And these young  
24          men and women from West Point who are well  
25          aware of the harm that they're putting

1       themselves in because they truly believe in  
2       this country, we owe them a debt of gratitude.

3               And I think that the heartfelt  
4       comments that came from Senator McDonald to  
5       really bring us all into the very real-life  
6       battlefield of what a soldier goes through  
7       every day. And when they come home, many of  
8       them may come home with all of their arms and  
9       limbs, but a part of them is left in  
10      Afghanistan, Iraq, or any other war that they  
11      fight on behalf of this country.

12             So I thank my colleagues who have  
13      served. And I thank the young men and women  
14      who will continue to serve. And I just wanted  
15      to share my thoughts, and I wanted to thank  
16      Senator McDonald for his comments, because I  
17      thought they were fitting to let us realize  
18      that this is not a romantic event, this is an  
19      epic proportion that's going to impact the  
20      live of these young people, and they are  
21      surrendering themselves to the will of this  
22      country and they're dedicating their lives to  
23      say that they too love America, and that's  
24      commendable.

25             Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

1 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you,  
2 Senator.

3 Any other Senators wishing to  
4 speak?

5 In closing, I just want to thank  
6 Senator Larkin for his work today, and Senator  
7 Skelos.

8 On behalf of all of us and on  
9 behalf of Governor Cuomo, I just want to  
10 extend our appreciation to General Huntoon, to  
11 our cadets. You make your families proud, you  
12 make New York State proud, you make our  
13 country proud. So thank you for being here  
14 today.

15 And the question is on the  
16 resolution. All in favor signify by saying  
17 aye.

18 (Response of "Aye.")

19 THE PRESIDENT: Opposed, nay.

20 (No response.)

21 THE PRESIDENT: The resolution is  
22 adopted.

23 Senator Libous.

24 SENATOR LIBOUS: Senator Breslin  
25 said we should clap.

1 (Standing ovation.)

2 SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President,  
3 at this time I would ask my colleague Senator  
4 Breslin's consent and certainly unanimous  
5 consent from the chamber to let  
6 Superintendent, Lieutenant General Huntoon  
7 address this body, please.

8 THE PRESIDENT: General.

9 SUPERINTENDENT HUNTOON: Well,  
10 thank you very much.

11 I am humbled and moved by these  
12 heartfelt tributes of support not just to  
13 these great cadets of the United States  
14 Military Academy, but to all the soldiers,  
15 sailors, airmen and marines who serve our  
16 country so gallantly today around the world in  
17 defense of all our freedoms.

18 We are absolutely delighted to be  
19 here in the Senate of the State of New York.  
20 We are home here. And we thank you for so  
21 many reasons. We thank you for your own  
22 service to the nation, for your service to the  
23 citizens of the great State of New York. We  
24 thank you for your unwavering support of the  
25 United States Military Academy at West Point.

1                   We thank Colonel Bill Larkin, our  
2                   own great warrior with a distinguished combat  
3                   record in both the Second World War and Korea,  
4                   for sponsoring this great day.

5                   And we thank you again so sincerely  
6                   for your commitment to our soldiers and our  
7                   families who do serve in harm's way around the  
8                   world today.

9                   For 209 years, West Point has been  
10                  a proud resident of the Empire State. From  
11                  the Palisades to Poughkeepsie, from every  
12                  neighboring community in the vicinity of West  
13                  Point, you have always been there to help our  
14                  soldiers and our civilians and to serve as a  
15                  second home for our families in the beautiful  
16                  Hudson River Valley.

17                  The heart of West Point, though, is  
18                  our outstanding cadets. And I'm so proud to  
19                  have brought 16 of these great cadets, all  
20                  from the State of New York, led by their First  
21                  Captain, Marc Beaudoin, to this great assembly  
22                  today. And I would tell you that there are  
23                  4600 others who remain at West Point who are  
24                  here in spirit and thank you for your great  
25                  support of the Academy.



1                   That support that you bring is  
2                   central to our mission accomplishment, the  
3                   mission at West Point that speaks about the  
4                   education, the training, the inspiration of  
5                   the United States Corps of Cadets so that each  
6                   commissioned graduate is committed to the  
7                   values of duty, honor and country, and  
8                   prepared for a career of professional  
9                   excellence in service to the nation as an  
10                  officer in the United States Army.

11                  Now, ladies and gentlemen, this  
12                  summer we will bring in another 1250 great  
13                  young men and women from every state in the  
14                  union, every territory, and from 33 countries  
15                  around the world. And they will begin their  
16                  own journey to becoming the leaders of  
17                  character necessary for the great challenges  
18                  of the 21st century. Every cadet will spend  
19                  47 months at West Point, and all will come to  
20                  know the beauty and the hospitality and the  
21                  virtues of this magnificent state.

22                  Now, the vast majority of our staff  
23                  and faculty, as has been noted this morning,  
24                  are veterans of the campaigns in Iraq and  
25                  Afghanistan. And they have shouldered the

1 great sacrifice and the burden of those  
2 conflicts, and they have returned to their  
3 New York home. And at West Point they teach  
4 another generation about values-based  
5 leadership, about the role of the military  
6 profession in this democracy, and about  
7 selfless service to the nation, always guided  
8 by our motto: Duty, honor, country.

9 We could not be prouder to serve  
10 here. New York has a distinguished record of  
11 military service that spans all our wars and  
12 is the proud home of the Army's 10th Mountain  
13 Division and the great 42nd Infantry Division.  
14 This state has produced thousands and  
15 thousands of veterans in all the services.  
16 And I know that several of you have served  
17 your country in uniform, and we thank you from  
18 the bottom of our hearts.

19 Thank you again for this great  
20 honor to gather in this historic place today.  
21 Thank you for everything that you do each and  
22 every day for West Point, for the United  
23 States Army, for our armed services, and for  
24 the nation.

25 (Standing ovation.)

1 THE PRESIDENT: Senator Libous.

2 SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President,  
3 at this time Senator Larkin has requested that  
4 we open the resolution for sponsorship from  
5 all of the membership of the Senate. If for  
6 any reason there is someone who wishes not to  
7 be on the resolution, please let the desk  
8 know.

9 And, Mr. President, we're going to  
10 stand at ease for about two minutes so that  
11 members can shake hands and have a photograph  
12 taken with the cadets. And I know that they  
13 have something that they have to go to  
14 shortly.

15 So we're going to just stand at  
16 ease for about two minutes. I would ask  
17 members not to go far.

18 THE PRESIDENT: The Senate is at  
19 ease.

20 (Whereupon, the Senate stood at  
21 ease at 11:53 a.m.)

22 (Whereupon, the Senate reconvened  
23 at 11:57 a.m.)

24 ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Senator  
25 Libous.

1                   SENATOR LIBOUS:     Thank you,  
2     Mr. President.

3                   May we please go back to the order  
4     of motions and resolutions.

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:  
6     Returning to motions and resolutions.

7                   Senator Libous.

8                   SENATOR LIBOUS:     Mr. President,  
9     there's a privileged resolution at the desk by  
10    Senator Golden. Could we have its title read  
11    and move for its immediate adoption.

12                  ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     The  
13    Secretary will read.

14                  THE SECRETARY:     Legislative  
15    resolution by Senator Golden, honoring Antonio  
16    Pellegrini upon the occasion of his  
17    designation for special recognition.

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     The  
19    question is on the resolution. All those in  
20    favor signify by saying aye.

21                  (Response of "Aye.")

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:  
23    Opposed, nay.

24                  (No response.)

25                  ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     The

1 resolution is passed.

2 Senator Libous.

3 SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you,  
4 Mr. President.

5 There's a privileged resolution at  
6 the desk by Senator Hassell-Thompson. May we  
7 please have its title read, call on Senator  
8 Hassell-Thompson, and then we'll move for its  
9 immediate adoption.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: The  
11 Secretary will read.

12 THE SECRETARY: Legislative  
13 resolution by Senator Hassell-Thompson,  
14 congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Carl Barchus, Sr.,  
15 upon the occasion of celebrating their  
16 50th Wedding Anniversary.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Senator  
18 Hassell-Thompson.

19 SENATOR HASSELL-THOMPSON: Thank  
20 you, Mr. President. Just briefly.

21 The Barchus family are part of a  
22 tremendous history, lineage in that family,  
23 and 50 years of marriage is something that  
24 unfortunately we don't see happen too often  
25 today.

1                   They have raised extraordinary  
2           children, and their son is the head of  
3           homeland security for our school district and  
4           does an extraordinary job and was the winner  
5           of the Joe Galiber Award this year during our  
6           Black and Puerto Rican Caucus Weekend.

7                   And I thought it would be very  
8           fitting if we celebrated with them 50 years of  
9           what we believe are the family values of this  
10          state and of a family who has just proven to  
11          be extraordinary in their marriage, their  
12          relationship, their community service as well  
13          as that of their son.

14                  So thank you, Mr. President, for  
15          the opportunity to speak. And thank you,  
16          Senator Libous, for allowing the speed with  
17          which this occurred.

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     Thank  
19          you, Senator Hassell-Thompson.

20                  The question is on the resolution.  
21          All those in favor signify by saying aye.

22                  (Response of "Aye.")

23                  ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     Any  
24          opposed, nay.

25                  (No response.)

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     The  
2     resolution is passed.

3                   Senator Libous.

4                   SENATOR LIBOUS:     Thank you,  
5     Mr. President.

6                   I believe we can have the reading  
7     of the noncontroversial calendar at this time.

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     The  
9     Secretary will read.

10                  THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
11     207, by Senator DeFrancisco, Senate Print  
12     2900, an act to amend the Military Law.

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     Read  
14     the last section.

15                  THE SECRETARY:     Section 4. This  
16     act shall take effect on the 120th day.

17                  ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     Call  
18     the roll.

19                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

20                  THE SECRETARY:     Ayes, 54.

21                  ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     The  
22     bill is passed.

23                  THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
24     211, by Senator Ball, Senate Print 3957, an  
25     act to amend the Military Law.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     Read  
2     the last section.

3                   THE SECRETARY:     Section 3.   This  
4     act shall take effect on the 30th day.

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     Call  
6     the roll.

7                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

8                   THE SECRETARY:     Ayes, 54.

9                   ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     The  
10    bill is passed.

11                   THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
12    233, by Member of the Assembly Gabryszak,  
13    Assembly Print Number 2411, an act to amend  
14    the General Municipal Law.

15                   ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     Read  
16    the last section.

17                   THE SECRETARY:     Section 2.   This  
18    act shall take effect on the 90th day.

19                   ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     Call  
20    the roll.

21                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

22                   THE SECRETARY:     Ayes, 54.

23                   ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH:     The  
24    bill is passed.

25                   Senator Libous, that completes the



1 reading of the noncontroversial calendar.

2 SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you,  
3 Mr. President.

4 Mr. President, is there any further  
5 business at the desk?

6 ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: There  
7 is none.

8 SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you.  
9 There being no further business at  
10 the desk, Mr. President, I move that the  
11 Senate adjourn until Monday, April 11th, at  
12 3:00 p.m., intervening days being legislative  
13 days.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: On  
15 motion, the Senate stands adjourned until  
16 Monday, April 11th, at 3:00 p.m., intervening  
17 days being legislative days.

18 (Whereupon, at 12:02 p.m., the  
19 Senate adjourned.)  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25